VERITAS

The Parents' Newsletter

November 1993 Selwyn House School

Terry Fox Run

Over $20,000 Raised!

Selwyn House School participated in their 6th Annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research on Friday, October 8 at Murray Hill Park.

This event is a rare activity which involves all grade levels working together for a common goal. From Kindergarten to Senior School all students jogged age appropriate distances in inclement conditions. Parents, teachers, as well as the Terry Fox Foundation Quebec Provincial Chairwoman, Catherine Rowe, participated by jogging, walking or cheering on the boys.

Each year we try not to focus on the school's previous successes as we do not want to cause any undue pressures. I am pleased and proud to announce that our student body has successfully accumulated a new record total of well over $20,000. This surpasses our 1992 high of $16,000. Selwyn House has now contributed over $70,000 to the Terry Fox Foundation in its six years of existence.

To the homeroom teachers, physical education staff, parents and students of Selwyn House, I am proud you directed a small amount of your time to such a worthy cause. Congratulations!

Steve Mitchell, Athletic Director

Ben Sharp and Daniel Bercovici completing their run.

Doubley Successful Soccer Season

This year some 45 boys from Grades 4, 5 and 6 contributed to one of our most successful seasons ever. Selwyn fielded two teams and in matches against the three different LCC teams we enjoyed a record of 7 wins, 2 ties and 1 loss.

The highlight of the season was the LCC Tournament in which the two Selwyn teams met each other in the Championship Final after finishing first in their respective sections. The score after regulation time and overtime was 0-0, so, co-winners were declared. This is the second consecutive year that Selwyn teams met each other in the final.

Peter Govan

Quebec Association of Independent Schools

Joint Parent Programme

Dr. George Mager of McGill University spoke to a crowd of over 300 parents at Selwyn House School on October 20, 1993, in the first of a series of joint parent information evenings for all schools in the QAIS. The series is part of the health promotion program providing support services to students and families.

Dr. Mager is an outstanding international and national lecturer who has presented over 200 workshops to teachers, psychologists, special educators, administrators and parents. He received the Order of Canada, in 1990 and the Bicentennial Medal in 1992. Dr. Mager studied psychology at Harvard University.

Dr. Mager presented an informative and stimulating lecture. He stressed that adolescence is a time of young people sorting out *who am I?* Parenting is developmental. The nature of parenting changes as kids grow and change. Dr. Mager recommends that parents be neither authoritarian nor permissive but rather authoritative. He states that what kids need are parents who structure their children's lives, set limits and yet are also warm, caring, and communicative. It is important to be a concerned parent and help reassure children that their confusions, experiences and fantasies are normal. However, he cautions that the concern should not be overdone. Kids don't need a *hovering* parent. Rather, Dr. Mager encourages parents to become interesting people in themselves so that they have stimulation and fulfillment. As the kids would say...*Get a Life*!

We are very fortunate that Dr. Mager was able to give one of his last public lectures in our community at Selwyn House School.

The second lecture in the Parent Information Evenings will be held at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School on November 16, 1993. This evening will provide an opportunity to examine issues of adolescent body image and also to receive information concerning the Health Awareness Day that will be held at both Selwyn House School and ECS on November 19, 1993. This will be a full day of workshops on numerous health issues, a play and a multimedia presentation for all students in Grades 7 to 11.

Dr. Salinda Hess

Visite d'un observatoire

Dans le cadre des cours optionnels pour la 9ème, 10ème et 11ème année, Selwyn House offre un nouveau cours intitulé *Astronomie*. Il s'agit d'un cours d'introduction aux principes d'astronomie (identification des constellations, utilisation d'un télescope, utilisation de logiciels de planétarium).

Le 14 octobre dernier, nous avons eu le privilège de visiter l'Observatoire du Mont-Mégantic. Cet observatoire est opéré conjointement par les Départements de physique de l'Université Laval à Québec et de l'Université de Montréal.

Lors de notre visite, monsieur Rémi Barneoud, astronome rattaché à l'Université de Montréal, nous a montré les principales caractéristiques du télescope. Situé à 1114m d'altitude, l'observatoire offre une vision incomparable sur la région et les montagnes du New Hampshire. Nous avons eu l'occasion de voir les observations effectuées la veille par monsieur Barneoud (il s'agissait de galaxies produisant plus d'étoiles que la moyenne).

Observations des tâches solaires

À notre retour, nous avons vu le phénomène étrange de la Côte magnétique du village de Chartierville. Il s'agit d'une illusion optique similaire à celle de Moncton: au point mort, une voiture *remonte* comme par enchantement la pente. Certains étudiants ont été très étonnés de ce phénomène, d'autres fort sceptiques.

Sylvain Decelles

Mount Mansfield: Tout en Hauteur!

There was a time when I called myself a *hiker*. I indeed hiked quite a lot in the Rockies, namely in Banff and in Waterton Lakes. I was then young, restless and most importantly, in shape. When I was asked to join the group of students that was to hike up Mt. Mansfield, I told myself: *Well, that ought to be easy, why not?* So, off I went with Marty Boyle and Sylvain Decelles (both of whom had hiked the mountain before) and seventeen students from Grades 8 to 11.

Our journey started early on Friday, September 17. We left Montreal at 7:30 A.M. and drove for nearly 2 hours before stopping at a great little country store—you know, the kind that sells anything from light bulbs to ear plugs. That store turned out to have quite an interesting selection of food as well. Each of us bought what was necessary for the *big climb*: peanuts, chocolate, gatorade, and beef jerky to name just a few of our purchases! We later arrived at the campsite where we were to set up our tents. This was finally done and we were all ready to start the hike we had come to do.

Well, well, surprised I was indeed. Not because the hike was so hard (it was!) but surprised to see the bad shape I was in! I still managed to make it up but unfortunately, we were welcomed by a freezing wind, stormy clouds and drizzle, all this in a zone that is considered *arctic*. Under Mr. Boyle's directions, we looked for the underground tunnel. And so we looked–up, down, on the side, below rocky slopes, but we never found it! Maybe next year we will, but I'll be sure to ask a student for directions!

Upon our return, all decided to build a fire. Some succeeded, some failed. Without a doubt, however, Andrew Coristine and Company had by far the warmest! So warm in fact that the ranger told them to turn it down since it was warming his cabin, one mile away. With the help of two students (probably old boy scouts), we teachers managed to have a fire too.

All in all, this was the most enjoyable nature trip I had had in a long time. The company was great, the food delicious and the jokes around the camp fire at night, well... just unrepeatable! To all who went, I hope your trip was as enjoyable and until next year, keep yourself fit. I know I will!

Maria-Cristina Cortoni

Opportunities for Youth

The Forum for Young Canadians brings together 500 senior high and CEGEP students to Ottawa to study the processes of the federal government. Sessions explore relationships between the press, government, business, labour, and the justice system. Any student between 16 and 19 is eligible and two can be nominated from each school. The tuition is $660 and the school will make a contribution.The candidates must select one of the following dates: March 12-19, March 19-26, April 16-23 or April 23-30.

Encounters With Canada also brings together youth from across Canada to learn about government institutions and cultural centers. One of six different themes is highlighted every week including: arts and culture, science and technology, law and journalism, communications and business, and entrepreneurship. Dates are available weekly from September to June. The tuition is $495 and the school will make a contribution.

The Rotary Exchange Programme offers the possibility of a student spending a year in one of 54 different countries. The applicant should be a post-secondary school student and will stay with a local rotary family and attend school in the host country. The student receives free room and board but must be responsible for round-trip air transport, clothing, health insurance and incidental expenses.

Peer Counselling is a service offered by the Westmount CLSC which trains volunteers to be Youth Counsellors. In eight training sessions, these students learn about communication, problem solving and are asked to assist the CLSC with their Youth Hot Line.

For more information about any of these opportunities, please see Mr. Wearing, Secondary School Director.

La cinquième à la classe rouge

Les 6, 7 et 8 octobre dernier les garçons de la cinquième immersion ont participé à une classe rouge au camp Jouvence dans les Cantons de l'Est. Cette expérience a été non seulement éducative et amusante mais elle a permis aux garçons de mieux se connaître à travers différentes activités. Voici quelques commentaires formulés par Jonathan Verrall, un nouveau garçon de cinquième.

Activité: Le canot

Il y avait beaucoup de vent l'après-midi de cette activité. On a voyagé en canot jusqu'à une petite île. Malheureusement, on devait aller contre le courant. On est allé dans une mine et on a trouvé de la pierre à savon. C'était simple de trouver des échantillons et j'ai fabriqué quatre colliers. C'était excitant!

Middle School Students Visit M.M.F.A.

On Friday, October 15, the Grade 7 Art students were fortunate to spend the afternoon at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for a combination workshop and tour.

The boys and I first viewed *Field* by Antony Gormley. *Field* is an installation of forty thousand clay figures placed on the floor in two rooms. Mr. Gormley is a Latin American artist and one interpretation of the meaning of his multiple *humanoid* figures is that it is a comment on the world's overpopulation.

We then proceeded with our guide to see the rooms of Inuit sculpture. The sculptures provide a glimpse of life in the Arctic through images of everyday life, myths and wildlife. After learning about some of the Inuit myths, we were all given sketch pads and had a great time doing contour drawings of the sculptures.

The highlight of the afternoon was the sculpture workshop. The students worked with air hardening clay in a spacious atelier. The works created reflected the inspiration of the sculptures that were viewed previously.

This same workshop will be repeated throughout the year by all Grade 7 and 8 Art students.

Ellen Pinchuk

Le Voyage de La sixième à la ferme

Cette année, comme les années passées, *La sixième* est allée à la ferme. Cette semaine donne aux élèves, la chance d'apprendre plus de français avec une famille francophone à la ferme.

Sam Carsley (6A)

La ferme a été une bonne expérience. J'ai appris beaucoup de choses par rapport aux machines agricoles, aux fermiers, aux animaux et beaucoup plus. Si on me demande: Est-ce que le voyage à la ferme était excitant, je vais répondre que c'était *Super extraordinaire!*

Christian Meguerditch (6B)

La ferme, c'est comme une école où tu peux apprendre à connaître une culture et un mode de vie différents. C'est des fois plus efficace que d'aller à l'école. Ce voyage m'a donné beaucoup d'expérience. J'ai appris plusieurs règles de la vie et ça c'est une chose qui vaut très chère.

Christopher Cheung (6B)

Le travail est dur mais amusant. Il faut transporter des balles de foin, traire et nourrir les vaches, mettre le grain dans le silo, enrouler des balles de foin dans le plastique et nettoyer l'étable. Un vrai travail de fermier!

Eric Pham (6B)

À la fin de la semaine, je savais que c'était une bonne expérience. Je comprends pourquoi *La sixième* va à la ferme chaque année pour apprendre le français. Je peux parler en français maintenant comme si c'était ma première langue. J'aimerais faire ça pour une autre semaine si je pouvais. Je n'oublierai jamais cette expérience!

Sam Carsley (6A)

Kevin Port dans un pommier.

Les Petits fermiers de la 2e

Les enfants de 2e année sont allés à la Ferme équestre Mont-Rouge. La ferme était très belle et il y avait beaucoup de pommiers. Le nom de notre guide était Bernard et il nous a montré le grenier. Dans le grenier il y avait un château de lumière avec les quatre saisons. On est passé sur un plancher qui bouge, on a glissé sur une glissoire puis on est tombé dans le foin. On est monté à cheval sur *Robin* et *Coconut*. Après, on est allé faire un tour de tracteur pour prendre des pommes biologiques sans produits chimiques. C'était très amusant!

Martin Brûlé-Brosseau, Sebastien Kaine, et Alex Weinberg 2A

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Get out your books...

It's Reading Week!

Our annual Reading Week is set this year to coincide with National Reading Week (November 16–19), and our students will be taking part in a variety of activities to promote the importance of books in our learning and our lives.

Youtheatre will visit the school with a production of Noel Grieg's musical fable *Whispers in the Dark*, which sets its action in "a world where books, reading, and the telling of stories has been outlawed." Sharon Jennings, author of *Jeremy and Mrs. Ming*, will speak with different groups of students, describing her work and its challenges. As well as these highlights, teachers will highlight in their classes the joy and variety to be found in books, a realm of active escapism. Students too will be challenged by the Elementary Director to read (the carrot being yet another humbling experience for poor Mr. Dowd).

We look forward to parents continuing their crucial role in supporting reading during this week, and throughout the year.

How Could We Have Forgotten?

Unfortunately, in the last issue of the *Parents' Newsletter*, comments from two of our new Kindergarten students did not get printed. They may be little boys but they have lots to say too!

What is your favourite thing about Kindergarten?

I like playing with the Lego! Niki

And I like the teachers! Andrew

Enjoying Books Together

Shoto Nishimura and Morgan Sweibel enjoying the classic *Purple, Green and Yellow.*

Shared Reading or *Buddy Reading* has become one of the components of the Kindergarten and Grade 2 English programme. Students in Kindergarten select a book that they have read to them by their Grade 2 partners. So far the experience has been a valuable one for both grades. The programme provides an opportunity for the second graders to practise their reading. The Kindergarten students benefit as well because the programme helps to promote the concept of words and letters. In addition to this, Shared Reading allows them the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of literature and most importantly, the boys experience a new friendship that will continue to develop throughout the year!

Celina Bérubé-Masoud

BOOK ENDS

The Selwyn House School Library was pleased to welcome Frances Tyrrell, illustrator of *The Huron Carol* and the wonderful miracle story *The Worker in Sandalwood*. Ms. Tyrrell spoke at length with Mrs. Pinchuk's Grade 8 Art class covering in some detail the fine art of illustrating. She also shared with us her new *Joy to the World*, a selection of Christmas Carols which would make a lovely Christmas gift.

We are looking forward to participating in SHS Reading Week; this year the same week as Canadian Children's Book Week from November 13 to 20. Sharon Jennings author of *Jeremy and Mrs. Ming* will be coming to speak with boys from K to Grade 2 about creating a story book and to read from her newest book *Sleep Tight*.

Our thanks to SHS parents who have responded so warmly to our new Birthday Book Donation Program. Donated since the beginning of the school year are: *The Official Stanley Cup Centennial Book* (for Greg Barker's 7th birthday), *The Fifties* (for Noah Bloom's 15th birthday), and *Joe Morgan, A Life In Baseball* (for Robert Vineberg's 12th birthday). Thank you all once again.

Members of the SHS community are invited to drop by and try the CD-ROM data bases we are previewing for purchase: *L'Actualité-Québec* (a full-text newspaper base in French), *Canebsco's Magazine Article Summaries Elite* (an abstract and full text base of high school, primary and public library North American magazines), and *SITS—Social Issues Research Series*—(a full text-base of 800 international journal, newspaper, and government documents for research at a senior and university level). Come see the information age in operation!

Virginia Ferguson

BOOK ENDS

The Bulletin Board

Selwyn House School

TV Busters! No TV For A Week!

The Elementary School once again held its annual TV Busters Contest for the students in Grades 1 to 7. For the period of one week students did not watch television. This was especially hard to do with the World Series scheduled the very same week! (Next year we hope that baseball will not coincide with our contest). Instead, the students took part in a variety of activities and realized that they could survive quite nicely without depending on that little square box for entertainment. The boys made note of the activities they did in place of watching TV and the students were given entry ballots for each evening they went *TV-less*. A draw was taken at the end of the week and the winners earned a *Free Dress-Bring Your Own Lunch-No Homework Day* for their efforts. Congratulations to everyone who survived the week and to the winners of the draw!

Ben Albright, Alexis Youssef (1A); Jeremy Elkin, Justin Kuzmicki (1B); Jean-Philippe Desbois, Martin Brûlé-Brosseau (2A); Ross Stemmler, Maurice Knecht (2B); Najib Sallman, Bobby Chon (3A); Gerry Hionis, Scott McMillan (3B); Chris Churchill-Smith, Jordan Feil (4A); Eric Appelbaum, Brian Walker (4B); Andrew Echenberg, Jerome Miller (5A); William Sucher, André Piccolo (5B); Jonathan Hewitt, Josh Wilner (6A); Chris Cheung, Christian Meguerditch (6B); Michael Duchesne, Anuraag Saksena (7A); Justin Greenberg, Gabriel Taraboulsy (7B); Jonathan How, Jamie Deitcher (7C).

Japanese Visitors to Canada, Eh?

Last June seven Selwyn House students travelled to Japan for two weeks as guests of Josai Kawagse High School, a private school for boys located in a Tokyo suburb. We are now planning to return their hospitality next summer. The dates are not yet fixed, but most likely this will be a two-week visit in August '94.

This connection with Josai is one we would like to become a regular fixture in our calendar, so that every two years some of our students will have the chance to experience Japanese schooling, culture and language in a home-stay environment (see the October Newsletter for a report on the June '93 trip).

We already are planning our next student trip to Japan for the summer of 1995. This opportunity is one for motivated Middle School and Senior School students. If you have an interest in sending your son to Japan, and he is currently in Grades 6 to 10, please let me know so that he can provide you with information when it becomes available.

In this connection, if you are willing to host a Japanese student this summer for approximately two weeks (probably in the first half of August), please let me know as soon as possible.

Sayonara!

Geoff Dowd, Elementary School Director/Japanese Exchange Coordinator

Student Support Services

As part of our program in health promotion, we are pleased to announce the presence of Catherine Walsh, B.A. (University of Toronto), who is at Selwyn House this year as a Youth Counsellor. Catherine will be working with a team of Youth Counsellors posted at several QAIS schools under the supervision of Dr. Salinda Hess. Miss Walsh will be in the school every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and will be working with both groups and individuals.

We are pleased to have this service available to the students of Selwyn House School.

Parents, Check Your Student Directory

In the last mailing, parents received a copy of the Student Directory. It appears that some directories were incomplete. If you are missing some sections in your copy please ask for a new directory at the Reception Desk in the Lucas Building.

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Michele Chalifour and her husband, Marc, on the birth of their new daughter Claire Emilie. Claire was born on Thanksgiving Day weighing 9 lbs. 1 oz. At age 2 weeks, Claire was already visiting the staff and students at Selwyn House. Félicitations à toute la famille!

Looking Ahead

November 15
Pedagogical Day (no school)

November 16
Parent Forum at ECS
Eating Disorders/Steroid Use

November 17
Admissions candidates visit classes
Grades 5 to 11

November 19
Health Awareness Day with ECS
Grades 6 to 11

November 20
Admissions Testing
Grades 5 to 11

December 3 and 4
Elementary Play: *Charlotte's Web*

December 6
Exams begin for Grades 8 to 11

December 15
Classes finish at 3:00 P.M.